RESOLUTION NO. 28 Frank H. Williamson

WHEREAS, Mr. Frank H. Williamson was born March 14, 1923, to the union of Julia Snipes and Dennis B. Williamson in Jackson, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Williamson graduated from high school and then joined the U.S. Army; he served in the 1226th Engineer Fire Fighters Platoon in 1943 in World War II in Normandy, France; he received two Bronze Stars; an EAME Theater, American Theater, and Good Conduct Ribbons; and the Victory Medal; and

WHEREAS, after leaving the Army in 1946, Mr. Williamson moved to Chicago, Illinois, where he met his wife, Thelma Naomi Hastings, in 1950; they later moved to St. Louis, Missouri, and raised four children during their 66 years of holy matrimony: Robin, Frank Jr., Robert Michael, and Rebecca; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Williamson was a gifted master carpenter; he worked for Chrysler Corporation and the Chevrolet Shell Ammunition Plant; Mr. Williamson was also a skilled mechanic who co-owned a Sinclair Gas station with his brothers in the City of St. Louis; and

WHEREAS, before moving his family to the West End of St. Louis, Mr. Williamson was very active in local politics and the Civil Rights Movement in the late 1950s and 1960s, along with William L. Clay; Mr. Williamson helped organize many marches and boycotts against retail businesses and banks for not hiring African Americans; his activities, along with those of others, helped elect Clay as the first black Congressman to hold the U.S. House seat from Missouri's 1st Congressional District in 1968; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Williamson served 18 years as Chief Head Clerk of St. Louis Juvenile Division from 1973 through 1991; after retiring Mr. Williamson was elected as State Representative for the 59th District of the State of Missouri; and

WHEREAS, he served as Committeeman for the 26 Ward for several years and was the chair for the Missouri Democratic Senatorial District 5 in 1997; while in the House he served on three committees: Fees and Salaries; Labor; and Public Health and Safety; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Williamson worked with youth in the community, organizing the "Lou Brock Baseball League" in the early 1960s, keeping young boys busy with his sons in mind; he recruited youth whom he found throwing rocks at windows, telling them to meet him at the baseball diamond in the park that evening; he had three teams playing for several years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Williamson departed this life on Tuesday, May 10, 2016; his wife, Thelma, preceded him four months ago to the day January 11, 2016; he was also preceded by his parents and 18 brothers and sisters.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis, that we pause in our deliberations to recognize and honor the life of Mr. Frank H. Williamson and offer our sincere condolences to his family. We further direct the Clerk of this Board to prepare a commemorative copy of this Resolution to the end that it may be presented at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on the 18th day of May, 2016, by:

The Honorable Terry Kennedy, Alderman 18th Ward

The Honorable Lewis E. Reed, President St. Louis Board of Aldermen

The Honorable Sharon Tyus, Alderwoman 1st Ward

The Honorable Samuel L. Moore, Alderman 4th Ward

The Honorable Christine Ingrassia, Alderwoman 6th Ward

The Honorable Kenneth Ortmann, Alderman 9th Ward

The Honorable Larry Arnowitz, Alderman 12th Ward

The Honorable Megan-Ellyia Green, Alderwoman 15th Ward

The Honorable Marlene E. Davis, Alderwoman 19th Ward

The Honorable Cara Spencer, Alderwoman 20th Ward

The Honorable Antonio D. French, Alderman 21st Ward

The Honorable Jeffrey L. Boyd, Alderman 22nd Ward

The Honorable Chris Carter, Alderman 27th Ward

The Honorable Lyda Krewson, Alderwoman 28th Ward

Adopted this the 18th day of May, 2016, as attested:

Timothy O'Connell	Lewis E. Reed
Clerk, Board of Aldermen	President, Board of Aldermen